

Athletic Administrators' Association "Outstanding Commitment to Interscholastic Athletics in New York State" award recipient, and as the 1996 Town of Hamburg Service Youth Award winner.

Further, Jerry has played an important and active role in our community through his work with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to join with Jerry's wife, Marie; his children, Gerald, Carla, Mark, and Elizabeth; the Frontier Central School District; and our Hamburg community to pay tribute to Mr. Gerald R. Baldelli. With retirement comes many new opportunities. May he meet every opportunity with the same enthusiasm and vigor in which he demonstrated throughout his brilliant career; and may those opportunities be as fruitful as those in his past.

Thank you, Jerry, for your tireless effort and personal commitment to our western New York community. As you enter retirement, I wish you nothing but the best.

TRIBUTE TO JOSE J. ACOSTA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jose J. Acosta as the California Highway Patrol, West Valley area, American Legion Officer of the year. Abigail Adams once questioned: "If we do not lay out ourselves in the service of mankind, whom should we serve?" Each and every day, Officer Acosta puts his life on the line in order to serve mankind by guaranteeing the safety of the Woodland Hills community. He is truly worthy of this award.

In his short time on the force Officer Acosta has been a quick study. His hard work and dedication have honed his investigative skills and earned him the respect of his supervisors and peers. In addition, he has fought to ensure the safety of our roads through his aggressive pursuit of drunk drivers. In a 12-month period he made over 70 arrests, demonstrating his skills in apprehension.

Officer Acosta's service to our community does not end with his shift. He understands that a smile and kind word can go a long way in a difficult situation. For proof one only need look at the letters of commendation detailing time and time again he is willing to lend a helping hand to motorists in distress.

West Valley is fortunate to have Officer Acosta, and I am confident that his dedication will serve as a model for other highway patrol officers in the Nation and lead to safer roads for everyone. I commend Officer Acosta for his dedication and hard work and congratulate him as he is honored as the California Highway Patrol Officer of the year.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. "JACK" GOEKEN

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work and dedication of an inspiring

inventor and enterprising leader, John D. "Jack" Goeken.

Jack Goeken is a much celebrated pioneer in the world of telecommunications. Jack Goeken has been referred to by Business Week magazine as, "the phone world's most prolific inventor." Former Federal Communications Commission Chairman Alfred C. Skies, recognized Goeken as, "one of America's genuine communications pioneers." His accomplishments and awards are as impressive as they are vast.

Jack Goeken has built an international reputation in the communications industry while founding communications giants such as MCI, FTD Mercury Network, Airfone, In-Flight Phone, and now Goeken Group companies.

Jack Goeken pioneered the concept of constructing a microwave system between Chicago and St. Louis, improving customers channel capacity and range, enabling truck drivers to use their two-way radios along the highway.

In 1963, Jack Goeken and four friends established Microwave Communications, Inc., MCI. In fact, Jack Goeken's development of a microwave network eventually lead to a victorious legal battle which is credited with the breakup of the Bell monopoly and opening of the telecommunications industry to competition.

For Jack Goeken, this was only the beginning of an impressive series of inventions and enterprising successes. He then founded the FTD Mercury Network, the world's largest online computer network, processing and delivering over 30 million smiles a year in floral orders.

Next, Jack Goeken founded Raliphone Inc., CML Communications which provided domestic satellite service, Spectrum Analysis Frequency Plan.

In the mid 70's, Goeken created the air-to-ground communications industry that exists today. Goeken founded the Airfone Corporation that travelers commonly see and use on commercial airlines. Goeken's invention lead to the founding of the In-Flight Phone Corporation in 1989, which provides the clear telephone service and transmission air travelers enjoy today.

Today, Goeken serves as chairman and CEO of the Goeken Group Companies which provide life saving technology and services. Goeken Group Companies includes; Global MED-NET, Personal Guardian, and Personal Safetywear.

On May 9, 1997, Jack Goeken will be honored at the 1997 Joliet UNICO Citizen of the Year Banquet for a lifetime achievement of "service above self," UNICO's motto.

I request that this body honor Jack Goeken for his incredible spirit of invention and remarkable forward thinking.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, while on official business I was unable to be present for two rollcall votes on May 7, 1997. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 109—"yes;" rollcall No. 108—"no."

FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN TAIWAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, as Members know, 11 Members of the House and I traveled to Asia over the Easter recess. Among our stops was a very successful visit to the Republic of China on Taiwan.

President Lee Tung Hui offered a typically warm welcome, and stressed the fact that Taiwan now lives under a fully free and democratic government. In fact, I would note that on May 20th President Lee will celebrate his first anniversary of his inauguration as Taiwan's first democratically elected President. In fact, I had the privilege to offer my congratulations to President Lee in person 1 month after that first free election in nearly 5,000 years of recorded Chinese history.

I offer my congratulations to him on this first anniversary of the election and ask that his welcome to our delegation be reprinted in the RECORD:

Honorable Speaker Gingrich, Honorable Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning. This is a very important moment. On behalf of the people and the government of the ROC on Taiwan, I would like to extend my heartiest welcome to all of you. Particularly, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you for your decision to visit my country out of such a busy schedule on your Asia evaluation tour. The time of your stay is very short, but the most important thing is that you didn't forget this island ROC on Taiwan. It has at least two very significant meanings: First, the ROC on Taiwan is the best friend of the United States in the world and the symbol of American value system and idealism, Freedom and Democracy. Second, the island is geographically important for US military strategy in the West Pacific area, and particularly in North-East Asia.

Domestically, the ROC on Taiwan is now considered a fully free country by the Freedom House based in New York City following our first direct popular presidential election in March 1996. In order to improve our competitiveness, we are now in the process of streamlining the government structure through constitutional reform and establishing an Asian Pacific Regional Operations Center here.

Our mainland China policy remains unchanged. Eventual reunification of China under freedom, democracy, and social justice is still our future goal, but the fact remains: China is divided. We in the ROC on Taiwan would like to use the next thirty years to build an even more free, democratic and prosperous country, so that when the opportune time arises, we can hold talks of reunification with the other side on an equal footing.

In the interest of time, I would like to listen to you; any questions put forward to me are welcome. As to the purposes of this trip, you already mentioned in the news conference on the 23rd of March. We have already prepared answers to those questions, and will provide the materials to you for your convenience. Thank you very much for your attention. Now, I would like to listen to your comments and advice.